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NPIC/TSSG/RED-007-70
6 January 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Photographic Interpretation Center
THROUGH : Chief, Technical Services & Support Group, NPIC
SUBJECT : "Vision Comparascope"

1. In response to your recent request, the attached data sheet was obtained and the subject instrument was examined at by one of our contract monitors on 15 December 1969. It is a device, distributed by and primarily intended for circuit board assembly inspections. Although the demonstrator considered it outstanding in the field, the optical characteristics were quite crude compared to PI equipment. The basic viewing mode is 1X and there is no method for adjusting focus. The optional magnification feature is poorly engineered and the demonstrator apologized for it. However, the Comparascope provided another chance to observe a type of "flicker" viewing; related to that, we will soon be acquiring with the Image Comparison Microstereoscope (ICM). The Comparascope technique employs rotating polarizing filters, although the demonstrator could not explain the details and no drawings were immediately available. The ICM technique involves electrical alternation of the light sources.

2. The mechanical "flicker" method was rejected during the design study phase of the ICM development, because of concern for vibration while viewing high resolution imagery under high magnification. Nevertheless, our examination of the Comparascope reaffirms our belief in the usefulness of the "flicker" technique for comparison viewing. We look forward to T&E of this feature after projected delivery of the ICM in April 1970.

Chief, Research & Engineering Division,
TSSG

Attachment:

Comparascope Data Sheet

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